

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION AGENDA
TWO HUNDRETH MEETING

World Shooting & Recreational Complex
One Main Event Lane
Sparta, Illinois

October 28, 2008, 10:00 a.m.

*Documentary Material Enclosed

Item 1: Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees

Item 2:* Adoption of Agenda

Item 3:* Approval of Minutes of the 199th Meeting Minutes, August 5, 2008

Item 4: Proposed 2009 Meeting Schedule

January 27, 2009	10:00 a.m.	Department of Natural Resources Building, Springfield
May 5, 2009	9:00 a.m.	Starved Rock State Park Visitors Center, Utica
September 22, 2009	10:00 a.m.	Illinois Beach State Park, Zion

Item 5: INPC Staff Report

REPORT

Kelly Neal, Jenny Skufca, and Randy Heidorn
Nature Preserves Commission

Item 6: IDNR Staff Report

REPORT

Glen Kruse
IDNR, Office of Resource Conservation

Item 7: Endangered Species Protection Board Report

REPORT

Marilyn Campbell
Endangered Species Protection Board

Item 8:* Bureau Co. – McCune Sand Prairie Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The 200-acre McCune Sand Prairie is owned by the Bureau County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), and it is included within the 263-acre McCune Sand Prairie Natural Area, which is listed on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI)

#350) as a Category II site for its populations of the state-threatened broomrape (*Orobanche ludoviciana*) and a reptile. Five species in greatest need of conservation, as defined by the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP), have been documented at this site: western hognose snake, ornate box turtle (*Terrepenne ornata*), dickcissel (*Spiza americana*), field sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*), and grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*). McCune Sand Prairie supports grade C sand prairie, grade D sand prairie, and grade D sand forest. Characteristic plants in the prairies include sand lovegrass (*Eragrostis trichodes*) and little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*). Black oak (*Quercus velutina*) is characteristic of the forest. These sand communities are representative of the Green River Lowland Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. Registration of this site will help implement the IWAP through the following priority action campaigns: Forests (sand savanna), Prairies, Invasive Species, and Land and Water Stewardship. McCune Sand Prairie is currently protected by a conservation easement that has been held by the Natural Land Institute since 1984. The Bureau County SWCD wishes to ensure a higher level of continued protection and restoration management of McCune Sand Prairie by having it permanently registered as a land and water reserve.

REPORT

Tom Lerczak

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval for Registration

Item 9:* Fayette Co. – Horn Prairie Grove Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Keith and Patricia Horn propose to register 40.60 acres as Horn Prairie Grove Land and Water Reserve. The property is located in the Effingham Plain Section of the Southern Till Plain Natural Division. The proposed land and water reserve supports a population of the state-threatened savanna blazing star (*Liatris scariosa* var. *nieuwlandii*) with 30 plants occurring in seven locations. The proposed land and water reserve also has 12.5 acres of former cropland that has been converted to a prairie reconstruction, 15.4 acres of former pasture, 11.14 acres of forest (woodland), and 1.6 acres of seeps. Mr. and Mrs. Horn wish to register the site through perpetuity. Allowable uses within the proposed land and water reserve will include hiking, hunting of deer, wild turkey and upland game, nature observation and study, photography, scientific research with prior consent by the landowner, mowing of established trails from June 1 through September 30, and removal of dead and downed trees for personal use only.

REPORT

Bob Edgin

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval for Registration

Item 10:* Jo Daviess Co. – Keough Effigy Mounds Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (JDCF) seeks to register 34.68 acres to be known as the Keough Effigy Mounds Land and Water Reserve. The JDCF purchased the site with a grant from the North American Wetlands Conservation Account

(NAWCA) which provides matching grants to organizations to carry out wetland conservation programs. To meet the funding criteria, the JDCF partnered with the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation's Upper Midwest Wildlife Habitat Protection Initiative, which matched the NAWCA grant 2:1. The site is in the Wisconsin Driftless Division and includes significant Native American archaeological features known as the Reynick Mound Group. It also contains a pre-historic rock shelter and shell midden. Although archaeological features are not recognized as part of the INAI, the Illinois Nature Preserves System does consider significant archaeological resources as qualifying features for protection in nature preserve dedication and land and water reserve registration programs. The site is unique in that it includes the only known intact bear effigy mound within the State of Illinois. If approved, this will be the second land and water reserve to be protected based exclusively on its significant archaeological features. The first archeological site afforded such protection by the INPC was Casper Bluff Land and Water Reserve (198th meeting). The justification to register the Keough Effigy Mounds as a land and water reserve is to permanently protect a highly significant archeological site as well as to permanently protect important waterfowl and migratory bird habitat identified in the IWAP.

REPORT

John Nelson

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval for Registration

Item 11:* Monroe Co. – Addition to Salt Lick Point Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The proposed addition to the Salt Lick Point Land and Water Reserve is a 145.48-acre, mostly forested site owned by the Village of Valmeyer. The site includes approximately 21 acres of the 456-acre Columbia Hill Prairies INAI site (#201), including approximately one acre of grade A loess hill prairie and two acres of grade B limestone glade, with the remainder in grade C dry and dry-mesic upland forest. The site is home to two listed species, the state-endangered woolly buckthorn (*Bumelia lanuginosa*) and a state-threatened reptile. In addition, the proposed addition to the Land and Water Reserve contains a large tract of forest with several forest interior bird species observed during breeding season. Several of these are also listed as species in greatest need of conservation in the IWAP: Kentucky warbler (*Oporornis formosus*), flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), worm-eating warbler (*Helminthos vermivorus*), Acadian flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*), wood thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), and ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*). The proposed addition to Salt Lick Point Land and Water Reserve also provides habitat for at least two mammal species in greatest need of conservation. These include the state and federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), and the bobcat (*Lynx rufus*). The site also harbors the striped scorpion (*Centruroides vittatus*), an invertebrate species in greatest need of conservation. The proposed addition is also an important part of a regional bluff protection effort. This effort involves a 35-mile corridor that includes 17 sites preserved in the INPC programs. This corridor contains 4000 acres of INAI sites. Protection of the site was facilitated with funding by the American Bottom Conservancy, the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, Sierra Club, and Webster Groves Nature Study Society, and from a mitigation

settlement with Holcim, Inc. The IDNR provided substantial administrative assistance for the project.

REPORT

Debbie Newman

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval for Registration

Item 12:* Hardin Co. – Collier Limestone Glade Nature Preserve, Dedication

The proposed 105.65-acre Collier Limestone Glade Nature Preserve, owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, is a high-quality grade A and B limestone community. The site protects the east part of the Collier Limestone Glade INAI site (#12). A unique assemblage of prairie and glade plants occurs in this community type which is rare. The Collier Limestone Glade natural area is an oak-hickory mosaic containing remnant dry oak woodlands and limestone glades. In southern Illinois, limestone glades are small prairie-like areas which occur on shallow soils over limestone outcrops. This glade occurs in the Lesser Shawnee Hills Section of the Shawnee Hills Natural Division. Collier Limestone Glade is one of the last remnants of what was once the largest continuous glade system that existed in Illinois. This site also includes Frailey's Landing Natural Area (INAI #437), a geological area. Preservation of Collier Limestone Glade will address several action steps in the Forest Campaign by conserving an INAI site, assisting private forest management in improving the latter categories, and assisting with the exotic species campaign by the management that will occur on the site to remove exotic and invasive species.

REPORT

Judy Faulkner Dempsey

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 13:* Hardin Co. – Lafarge Limestone Glade Nature Preserve, Dedication

The proposed 51-acre Lafarge Limestone Glade Nature Preserve, owned by the Lafarge North America Corporation, is a high-quality grade A and B limestone glade community. The site protects the western part of the Collier Limestone Glade INAI site (#12). A unique assemblage of prairie and glade plants occurs in this rare community type. The Lafarge Limestone Glade natural area is an oak-hickory mosaic containing remnant dry oak woodlands and limestone glades. In southern Illinois, limestone glades are small prairie-like areas which occur on shallow soils over limestone outcrops. This glade occurs in the Lesser Shawnee Hills Section of the Shawnee Hills Natural Division. Lafarge Limestone Glade is one of the last remnants of what was once the largest continuous glade system that existed in Illinois. Preservation of Lafarge Limestone Glade will address several actions steps in the Forest Campaign by conserving an INAI site, assisting private forest management in improving the latter categories, and assisting with the exotic species campaign by the management that will occur on the site to remove exotic and invasive species.

REPORT

Judy Faulkner Dempsey
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 14:* Kane Co. – Ed Meagher Savanna and Sedge Meadow Addition to Freeman Kame Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Forest Preserve District of Kane County (FPDKC) seeks preliminary approval for dedication of the Ed Meagher Savanna and Sedge Meadow as an addition to the 35-acre Freeman Kame Nature Preserve. The proposed addition, consisting of 61 acres as nature preserve and 35 acres as nature preserve buffer, is located within the larger 442.7-acre Freeman Kame-Meagher Forest Preserve owned by the FPDKC. Freeman Kame Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. Freeman Kame Nature Preserve is currently included on the INAI (#1474) as a Category III site (nature preserve). During the initial INAI survey, the sedge meadow and dry-mesic savanna were considered high-quality. Ultimately, because these communities failed to meet the minimum size requirements, Freeman Kame was designated as a notable site and not included on the initial INAI. The proposed addition includes sedge meadow and dry-mesic savanna considered high-quality (grade B) by the initial INAI and more recent assessments, grade C dry-mesic forest, and grade C or D mesic prairie. Recent surveys reveal the presence of six state-listed plant and animal species: purple-flowering raspberry (*Rubus odoratus*), bog-panicked sedge (*Carex diandra*), buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*), American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) and a reptile. In addition, the site supports elements of the IWAP; specifically, action steps to restore and manage high-quality wetland communities and six wildlife species considered species in greatest need of conservation. Those species include the Dion skipper (*Euphyes dion*), broad-winged skipper (*Poanes viator*), American bittern, sandhill crane, northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), and a reptile. Dedication of the proposed addition will protect high-quality sedge meadow and dry-mesic savanna within the proposed addition and beyond the boundary of Freeman Kame Nature Preserve and provide habitat for six state-listed plant and animal species and six wildlife species identified by the IWAP. Formal protection of the proposed addition is also consistent with the recommendations of the “*Biodiversity Recovery Plan for the Chicago Wilderness Region*”.

REPORT

Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 15:* Kankakee Co. – Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is seeking preliminary approval for dedicating 68 acres of the Leesville Savanna INAI site (#638) as Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve. The proposed Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve is comprised of two units and is located in the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division of Illinois. The site is also within a conservation

opportunity area identified in the IWAP. The natural communities within the site include high-quality dry and dry-mesic sand savanna, sand flatwoods, sand prairie, and old field. It supports 12 state-listed species: yellow wild indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*), crowded oval sedge (*Carex cumulata*), narrow-leaved sundew (*Drosera intermedia*), northern cranesbill (*Geranium bicknellii*), old plainsman (*Hymenopappus scabiosaeus*), shore St. John's wort (*Hypericum adpressum*), orange fringed orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*), Carey's smartweed (*Polygonum careyi*), bristly blackberry (*Rubus setosus*), eastern blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium atlanticum*), primrose violet (*Viola primulifolia*), and regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*). The proposed Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve also supports numerous wildlife species including four species considered to be in greatest need of conservation. This site is well suited for a nature preserve dedicated in Mr. Becker's memory because of its outstanding natural character and the partnership it exemplifies in the Kankakee Sands (and entire State of Illinois) between TNC and the IDNR, both agencies in which Mr. Becker devoted his career in conservation.

REPORT

Kim Roman

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 16:* Jersey Co. – Palisades Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Great Rivers Land Trust seeks final approval for dedication of 420 acres of bluff land property as Palisades Nature Preserve. The Palisades site contains part of the Chautauqua Prairie INAI site (#964). The proposed nature preserve contains grade A and grade B loess hill prairie and grade A limestone cliff community of the Glaciated Section of the Middle Mississippi Border Natural Division, and a large block forest. The site also harbors four state-listed species, including two listed reptiles, whitlow grass (*Draba cunefolia*), and bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). In addition to the three animals listed above, three other bird species found on the site are species of greatest conservation need in the IWAP. Preservation of the site contributes to the larger efforts to preserve the Mississippi River bluff corridor between Alton and Pere Marquette State Park. The proposed nature preserve will have an active management team led by the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 199th Meeting in August, 2008 (Resolution 2003).

REPORT

Debbie Newman

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Final Approval for Dedication

Item 17:* Jo Daviess Co. – Addition to Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) seeks final approval for dedication of a third addition, totaling 48.4 acres, to Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve located in the Wisconsin Driftless Natural Division approximately 1.5 miles southwest of Hanover. The Hanover Bluff INAI site (#1058) includes approximately

1,390 acres and is recognized as a Category I (high-quality dry dolomite prairie and sand hill prairie), Category II (12 state-listed species), and Category III (dedicated nature preserve) natural area. The IDNR dedicated 361.7 acres as Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve at the 113th Meeting of the INPC in February, 1987. At the 183rd Meeting of the INPC in August, 2004, the Commission approved the dedication of a 48.466-acre addition, owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), to Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve. The INPC approved dedication of a second TNC-owned addition to the Nature Preserve (67.09 acres) at its 185th Meeting in February, 2005. This proposal is for the dedication of a third addition, totaling 48.4 acres, and will increase the size of Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve to 525.66 acres. Of that total, 410.1 acres are owned by the IDNR. The remaining 115.56 acres of dedicated land are owned by TNC. Twelve state-listed species, composed of ten plants and two animals, are found within the Hanover Bluff area. Hanover Bluff provides sanctuary for one of the few viable populations of a state-threatened reptile remaining in northwest Illinois. In addition, the proposed nature preserve addition provides habitat for numerous species of conservation concern as identified in the IWAP. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 198th Meeting in May, 2008 (Resolution 1990).

REPORT

Angella Moorehouse
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Final Approval for Dedication

Item 18:* Massac Co. – Horsefly Ridge Nature Preserve, Dedication

The proposed Horsefly Ridge Nature Preserve is a 49-acre natural area owned by Robert L. Shapiro and his wife, Robyn R. Shapiro. The area is significant because it contains grade C dry and dry-mesic barrens that were recently recognized by the INAI (#1786) as a “best of its kind” within the Cretaceous Hills Section in the Coastal Plains Natural Division, where it occurs. Barrens are rare in the State. The barrens/open woodland contains “limby”, open grown trees in the age range of 75-125 years, with a forb/grass component of species found in open rocky areas or prairie-like openings. The site today is characteristically less dry and open, than it was when the original surveyors described its characteristic growth as “barren land, thinly timbered, shrub oak and briers.” The nature preserve designation helps accomplish goals of the IWAP. The protection of the proposed Horsefly Ridge Nature Preserve also supports action steps identified for the Forests Campaign, i.e. to assist private forest management by protection of open woodlands and barrens. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 199th Meeting in August, 2008 (Resolution 2005).

REPORT

Judy Faulkner Dempsey
Nature Preserves Commission
Mark Guetersloh
IDNR, Division of Natural Heritage

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Final Approval for Dedication

Item 19:* Jasper Co. – Request to Procure a Utility Easement, Prairie Ridge State Natural Area Land and Water Reserve

Norris Electric Cooperative, a rural electric cooperative, requests a permanent right-of-way easement (1.83 acres) within Prairie Ridge State Natural Area Land and Water Reserve (PRSNALWR) for relocation of an electric distribution line to improve accessibility and enhance quick restoration of service during outages. The current location of the line requires modification due to expanded service needs and to remedy safety hazards. The Jasper County unit of the PRSNA is a 2,916-acre grassland and wetland complex located in the Effingham Plain Section of the Southern Till Plain Natural Division. The proposed project would occur within the boundary of the Hunt Tract, a 320-acre addition approved by the Commission at the 199th Meeting in August, 2008 (Resolution #1999). It is adjacent to existing land and water reserves and nature preserves and is managed in conjunction with them. PRSNALWR provides habitat to 23 species listed as threatened or endangered in Illinois, including the State’s only breeding population of greater prairie chickens (*Tympanuchus cupido*). This action requires a finding by the Commission and the IDNR.

REPORT

Tim Huber

Norris Electric Cooperative

Bob Edgin/Jenny Skufca

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval of Easement

Item 20:* Jasper Co. – Request for Parking Lot Placements, Jasper County Prairie Chicken Sanctuary Nature Preserve

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, landowner of Jasper County Prairie Chicken Sanctuary Nature Preserve, proposes to construct two 30-foot by 40-foot hunter parking areas to enhance the safety offered to deer hunters supporting the deer management program at the site. The 407-acre site is recognized on the INAI (#601) as critical grassland habitat for state-listed species, most notably the Illinois-endangered greater prairie chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*). Additionally, the instrument of dedication identifies that the sanctuary “may be managed for said primary purpose [provision of habitat for the prairie chicken] with or without the preservation...of natural conditions.” In consultation with INPC staff, the location of the two parking areas were chosen due to the close proximity to areas known for high concentrations of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and the already open and disturbed condition. The site’s deer management program is in full compliance with the INPC’s Management Guidelines for control of white-tailed deer populations.

REPORT

Bob Edgin/Jenny Skufca

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval of Proposal

Item 21: Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

Item 22: Other Business

Item 23: Adjournment